

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-6 and 8-9 are pending in the present application. By this reply, claim 7 has been cancelled. Claims 1 and 8 are independent claims.

The specification and claims have been modified slightly only to correct typographical and grammatical errors and to place them in better form. These modifications do not add new matter.

Objection to the Specification

The Abstract of the Disclosure has been objected to because it is too long. Applicant has amended the Abstract of the Disclosure in order to place it in better form. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 102(a) Rejection

Claim 7 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Applicant's disclosed background art. Without acquiescing to the Examiner's allegations, and to expedite prosecution of the present application, claim 7 has been cancelled, thus rendering this rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the early indication of allowance of claims 1-6 and 8-9.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons and in view of the above clarifying amendments, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw all of the objections and rejections of record, and earnestly solicits an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters which need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Esther H. Chong (Registration No. 40,953) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and further replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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JAK/EHC:lmh

Attachment: Abstract of the Disclosure